south side, adjoining the hall, from which there is a passage through it to the top of the walls. On the east side there is another terrace, protected by three towers and walls, where there was a second entrance to the castle; this was from the river, by ascending a steep rock, where once had been a narrow flight of winding stairs, protected by a wall, with a small covered hanging tower, which went a considerable way into the river, and had another round tower at its extremity to prevent the approach of an enemy at ebb tide. The portion in the river had been for a long period destroyed; but the narrow wall with the hanging-tower, as far as the terrace, was taken down, when making the approach to the bridge. The next tower to the king's, *tur darn*, or the broken tower, presents a very picturesque ruin. The avarice, it is said, of some of the inhabitants led them to excavate the rock at its base, which occasioned a vast fragment of the tower to fall: the upper half remains perfect, suspended at a great height, and projecting nearly thirty feet over the walls below. The walls which surround the town were built at the same time as the castle, and are nearly triangular,—a form evidently prescribed by the situation; the walls which remain almost entire are very lofty and embattled: in the circuit of a mile and a quarter there are twenty-one strong towers, rising considerably above the walls, besides three entrances to the town, with two stronger towers to each. The base of the triangle runs along the river, and in it are seven towers with a gateway called *Porth isav*, or the lower gate; between this and the castle, there is also a portal in the wall, called *Porth bach*, but without towers. From the northern extremity of the base, a curtain with battlements on each side runs nearly seventy yards into the river, which had at its extremity a large tower, long since destroyed, but the ruins are visible. This corresponded with a similar tower under the castle: the gateway through the curtain is called *Porth yr aden*. A second entrance to the town was from the country side, nearly opposite to *Porth isav*,—it is called *Porth uchav*, or the upper gate, and it was furnished with a drawbridge: the third is on the south side, and led to the *velin heli*, or salt-water mill,—it is called *Porth y velin*, or the gate of the mill. Except on the river side, the whole town was surrounded by a deep and wide moat. One of the towers on the south has a wall built on the town side, and contained some spacious apartments,—it is called *Tur Llywelyn*.

Edward made Conway a strong military station, and granted the town a charter as a free borough, securing to it considerable privileges, a condition being annexed with which the good citizens of London, in their present humour, would, he thought, be especially angry, "That *the Jews* dwell not at any time in the same borough."

At the restoration of Charles the Second, the castle was granted by the "merry monarch" to the Earl of Conway, who was altogether unworthy of such a possession; for in the spirit of a pedlar, rather than a patrician, he ordered his agent to dismantle this glorious structure, by removing the timber, iron, lead, to be shipped to Ireland, ostensibly for his majesty's, but in reality for his own use. With a most commendable determination, Colonel Wynn, Mr. Thomas Bulkeley, and several of the leading gentry of the country, attempted to oppose this destructive design, but in vain. The spoiler did his work; but a suitable fate attended this desecration of one of the noblest works of antiquity. Lord Conway was not merely prejudiced, as he complains, by the loss of an opportune season for shipping, but by the loss of the property itself, for the vessels which contained the materials for Ireland were wrecked on the voyage. The castle is at present held from the Crown by the Dowager Lady Erskine, who takes commendable care for its preservation.

National Art-Union of Ireland.—On the 31st ult. the annual meeting of this society was held, when it appeared that the amount received in subscriptions, 511*l.* 5s., had only sufficed to obtain a print for the members and pay the expenses, and that there could be no drawing for prizes. The pressure of the times was the cause assigned.

THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM, UNITED STATES.

A new building, to be called "The Athenæum," has been erected in Boston, for the collection and preservation of a large library, and the exhibition of works of art in sculpture and painting. A correspondent has favoured us with the following particulars. The design of the structure is Palladian, the material free-stone, from New Jersey. The basement is rusticated, the windows are in arched recesses, with intervening pilasters supporting the entablature. A central division of the elevation projects slightly. The entire height is 62 feet, and the length 114 feet. The basement is constructed, within, of bricks, the ceiling being formed by continuous groined arches, which support the lower floor, and give security against fire from below. Here are furnaces, with flues going into all parts of the building; ample store-rooms for packing, &c., with an apparatus for hoisting, through a fireproof passage, quite to the upper story. The front doorway is 14 feet high by 10 feet broad, and is arched with a semi-circular light. It opens on a vestibule, or main entry, 32 feet by 28, which contains double staircases, ascending to the upper story, and lighted from the roof and by a large window in front.

The first-floor is partitioned for a hall 80 feet in length, intended for a sculpture gallery, two spacious apartments for reading rooms, and one for a cabinet of medals, coins, and other articles of value and curiosity. The second floor is appropriated entirely to books. The main library is 109 feet in length and 42 feet in its extreme breadth. It contains about 40,000 volumes, and is divided by a wide archway: one division displaying the books in alcoves, and the other, cases lining the walls. It is finished in the Italian style, with a decorated ceiling. The third-floor is appropriated as a gallery for pictures. That portion of it which is over the great hall of the library is finished in four divisions, lighted from the top. The edifice has cost about 100,000 dollars, in its present state, and may be completed for 25,000 more.

NEW ROOF AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

The drawing-office in the Bank of England,—an apartment of great length (138 feet), and about 44 feet wide,—is being remodelled by Mr. Cockerell: the columns are removed, and a roof to span the whole has been formed. A paragraph which has gone the round of the daily papers would really lead to the impression, in the minds of those who knew no better, that before this event no roof of 44 feet span had been formed.

Divested of the singular halo thrown around the matter by the notice in question, it is simply this,—that wrought-iron box-girders are used, patented by Mr. G. Nasmyth, containing an iron *arched rib*. They are 2 feet 3 inches deep for the span in question, and, as we understand, cost about 105*l.* more than cast-iron girders would have done. Apart from the puff in question they seem to be very good things, well worth examination.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE THAMES.

On the south of the Thames nothing but neglect seems the rule. It is believed there are ample funds to proceed with proposed improvements, and in one instance the coal duties are available. The south of the Thames is entitled to a share positively provided for by Act of Parliament. It is publicly stated that several new churches are to be built, that sites are selected, and that ample funds can be found. For drainage!—that is put off!—for ever! and the truth is that it would be a great favour to leave all to the old management, for, bad as it was called, it was infinitely better than the present. It must shortly come to this,—that those who have been born and bred in the southern localities must surrender their present comfortable homes, though humble, and go into lodgings,—that most of the government payers will be lost, the parochial rates greatly diminished, and taxes will only be obtained by the authority of Somerset House,—a state of things that must arise if some energies are not immediately put out to stem the impending ruin. No district around the metropolis has been so cruelly treated as the southern boroughs—the "elder sister of London," as they used to be called—deserted, and become a ruined heap.

Westminster-bridge, a nuisance, and tolerated by authority, is stilted up, and, if a severe winter come, will be found prostrated, jammed, and huddled together in the fall, and the whole district, perhaps, under water at every tide. Speculated upon by railways, controlled, for termini, by government, Woods and Forests, for new roads, and by the so-called Metropolitan Improvement Commissioners, the Commission of Sewers, &c. &c., we ask your advocacy.

An Old Subscriber.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS.

A special meeting was called for Tuesday last, on the following requisition to Mr. Woolrych:—

"We, the undersigned, request you, as secretary to the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers, to summon a special court of sewers, to be held at the principal office, No. 1, Greek-street, Soho-square, on Tuesday, the 21st day of August instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of ascertaining from documentary and other evidence whether there be any truth in the statements made by Mr. Chadwick, at the public court of sewers on the 2nd instant, against the undersigned commissioners for obstructing and misrepresenting 'the very large economy' resulting from the present system of 'contract' for removing by flushing the soil from the sewers at a cost of 'sixpence per cubic yard;' for the removal of soil under the old Westminster commission, the cost was 7s. per cubic yard; and the undersigned were approving members of such expenditure in that commission, thus exhibiting an alleged 'large economy' in favour of the present system, of 6s. 6d. per cubic yard, being a difference of 1,300 per cent.

To ascertain the exact amount in thousands of pounds of the money of the ratepayers already expended in the flushing department entirely omitted by Mr. Chadwick, in his statement of 'the very large economy' of the present system of flushing the sewers by 'contract,' and to ascertain what in reality such 'contract' is.

To ascertain from the account book of Assistant-Surveyor Lovick (to whom on the recommendation of 'The Committee of Works,' the flushing department has been for many months exclusively entrusted), whether, during the 31 weeks of the present year to the 31st July, the 'yards lineal' of sewers flushed out in the Surrey and Kent districts do not make a total of 214¼ miles, at a cost to the ratepayers of 10*l.* 6s. 4d. per mile, independently of the district portions of the very large omissions of expenditure by Mr. Chadwick in his statement on the 2nd instant.

To ascertain if beyond these omissions by Mr. Chadwick, and beyond the 10*l.* 6s. 4d. per mile shown in the account-book of Assistant-Surveyor Lovick, the rate-payers of the Surrey and Kent districts have not been charged in the account of the contractor with the court for those districts, Mr. Dethick, other large items of expense connected with flushing, among which are 2,400 loads of soil carted away at 2s. 6d. per load for cartage only.

To ascertain the number of times the same length of sewer has been flushed out in the 31 weeks, each time of such flushing costing the rate-payers on the general average at the rate of 10*l.* 6s. 4d. per mile.

To ascertain if any of the sewers in any district are flushed out three times a-week.

To investigate the 'special contracts' at per 'yard lineal' entered into by Assistant-Surveyor Lovick and the labourers, and to ascertain if any of the sewers under such arrangements, have had the soil washed into the adjoining sewers at an expense to the rate-payers equal to 3s. per cubic yard.

And to take such immediate steps as the result of the evidence to be submitted at such special court may render necessary for the honour, character, and usefulness of the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers, and the best interests of the metropolitan ratepayers confided to the guardianship of the commission. Dated this 16th day of August, 1849. (Signed)

John Leslie,
Frederick Byng,
John Bidwell."

Great excitement appeared to prevail in the office, and the proceedings were looked forward to with considerable interest. The commissioners present in the court at the usual hour of commencing business were Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P., Sir John Burgoyne, Mr. Leslie, and Mr. Bidwell. Mr. Byng was prevented from attending through indisposition. Several other commissioners soon

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